

Joint Meeting
NEGRO AMERICAN AND NEGRO NATIONAL LEAGUES
at
Hotel Grand - Chicago, Ill.
June 10, 1942

A joint meeting of the Negro American and Negro National Leagues was held at the Hotel Grand, Chicago, on June 10, 1942. Dr. J. B. Martin, President of the Negro American League, acted as chairman. Present were: Ernest Wright, Erie, Pa., owner of the Cincinnati Buckeyes; Tom Baird and J. L. Wilkinson, Kansas City Monarchs; Ed. Gottlieb and Ed Bolden, Philadelphia Stars; Tom Wilson, President Negro National League and owner of the Baltimore Elite Giants; George Mitchell and Bill Semler, New York Black Yankees; W. S. Welsh, Birmingham Black Barons manager; V. Green, Baltimore Elite Giants; William Laeschner, New York booking agent; Tom Hayes, Birmingham Black Barons, Cumberland Posey, Secretary of the Negro National League and representing the Homestead Grays; J. B. Martin, Chicago American Giants; Frank A. Young, Secretary of the Negro American League who was asked to serve as secretary of the joint meeting; Dr. B. B. Martin and Dr. W. S. Martin, Memphis Red Sox. Alex Pompez, Cuban Stars, was absent.

Meeting opened with the reading of the minutes of the joint session of 1941 held in June in New York City by Cum Posey. Dr. W. S. Martin motioned to adopt. Seconded by George Mitchell. Carried.

Date of 1942 East versus West game set for Sunday afternoon, August 16, and in case of rain the game to be played on Sunday, August 23. Place Comiskey Park. East contended for Sunday, July 12 and in event of rain Sunday, July 19. According to Dr. J. B. Martin, first date would conflict with the Negro Music Festival at Soldiers Field.

Matter of publicity on the tenth annual East versus West game taken up. Objection to Abe Saperstein voiced by several members of the Negro National League. Various owners voiced their disapproval of amount, which was five percent of the net after taxes, etc. had been deducted.

Cum Posey motioned that Presidents of both Leagues be empowered to contact a man suitable to write publicity, other than Saperstein, for the daily papers, radios. Seconded by Selmer. Posey amended his motion that the amount of money to be spent, including press releases to Negro newspapers, not to exceed five percent of the net after taxes and all expenses had been deducted. Motion carried.

Tom Wilson brought up the question of the Negro American League clubs banning the New York Black Yankees and felt the ban should be placed on the clubs in the Negro National League and not the Negro American League, singling out the one club for action. President Martin of the Negro American League settled the question by lifting the ban on the New York Black Yankees.

Question of Negro clubs playing in major league parks and percentages being paid to promoters. Tom Wilson tells of a deal in Detroit at Briggs Stadium in that city. Gottlieb, Tom Baird joined in the discussion. Gottlieb says baseball fans want variety and suggests Eastern teams come West and Western teams come east during the second half of the season. Posey motioned that no league clubs play in St. Louis or Detroit major league parks unless owners of said clubs personally obtain the parks direct. Mitchell not ready. Says presidents of the leagues should handle the matter. Mrs. Manley and Gottlieb take the floor for discussion. Posey's motion lost for want of discussion.

Posey then motioned to eliminate all outside promoters of games in major league parks unless these promoters are hired by clubs participating or by the leagues. Promoters not to be paid more than ten percent. Motioned questioned by Mrs. Manley. Motion seconded by Mitchell. Carried.

Wright motions that presidents of the two leagues rotate teams in Detroit and St. Louis parks. Motion lost for want of a second.

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. B. B. Martin, Seconded by Semler. Carried.

Joint meeting continued on June 11 with Dr. J. B. Martin still acting as chairman.

Discussion on game for the United States Navy relief fund and the United States Army relief fund to be played in Cleveland, Ohio, on Tuesday night, August 18, with the same teams participating which plays at Comiskey Park in the tenth annual East versus West game on Sunday, August 16. Game is to be played at night in the Cleveland Municipal Stadium.

Committee appointed to handle the game is Ernest Wright, Chairman, Cum Posey and Wilbur Hayes, co-chairmen who are empowered to contact all necessary parties in Cleveland and to make all arrangements.

Moved by Tom Wilson and seconded by Baird that each league be responsible for sending players of their respective leagues to Cleveland. Ernest Wright is to pay all promotional expenses, not to exceed \$300.00.

Discussion on games in major league parks. Motion made for presidents to make contacts for the parks. Motion withdrawn.

Motion by Green and seconded by Semler that each club playing in Detroit receive sixty-five percent and thirty-five percent go to the other clubs in the league. Motion withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank A. Young
Acting Secretary